THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH. — OFFICIAL PAPER: VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL AND B. C. FEDERATION OF LABOR. — POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY!

SIXTH YEAR. No. 187. — VANCOUVER, B. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1914. — ($1.50 in Vancouver City, $2.00) $1.50 PER YEAR

CONGRESS REPORT PRESENTED LAST NIGHT

Del. W. R. Trotter Reviews Proceedings of St. John Convention

Report Well Received and Good Work of Congress Appreciated

At last night's meeting of the Trades and Labor council W. R. Trotter presented his report as delegate to the St. John's convention of the Trades and Labor congress of Canada. Though somewhat belated, owing to the enforced absence of Mr. Trotter, The Federationist feels justified in reproducing it in full, as a matter of record for the unionists of British Columbia, who are especially interested in the work of the congress owing to the fact that its 1915 convention is to be held in Vancouver. The report reads:

The thirtieth annual convention of the Trades and Labor congress of Canada began its deliberations on September 21st in the city of St. John, New Brunswick, and adjourned on September 26th, to meet next year in the city of Vancouver.

The industrial conditions throughout the dominion had caused some anxiety as to how the various unions would respond to the call, and there is considerable satisfaction in recording that 147 credentials were forwarded and that 135 delegates were actually in attendance. The fact that the western section of the country has probably been the hardest hit by the untoward conditions together with the distance to be travelled, was responsible for the very much reduced western delegation, there being only thirteen from the west including Winnipeg.

Of the 147 credentials received, two were from fraternal delegates—one from a provincial federation of labor, seventeen from international representatives, twenty-three from trades councils and 104 from local unions. While the total number of delegates was below the figures of recent years, the delegation was thoroughly representative from a geographical standpoint and lacked nothing but numbers compared with any standard of previous years.

Resolutions

The advantage gained by the resolution passed last year at Montreal which called for resolutions to be in the hands of the secretary ten days prior to the convention, was early apparent. The resolutions committee was enabled to meet one day before the regular sessions and was ready to report at the morning session on Tuesday—two days ahead of previous custom. The fact that a two-thirds vote of the convention was necessary to introduce any additional resolutions deterred the working of the incubator on minor resolutions, and gave time for a fuller and freer discussion of major issues which has been deplorably lacking at many previous assemblies. The resolutions this year numbered 70 as compared with 120 in Montreal last year.

There was a smaller crop than usual of resolutions pertaining to particular trades. Among those adopted were two presented by the Vancouver local of railway carmen, one calling for legislation making it compulsory for two men to be sent to certain defined classes of work where at present it is the allegedly dangerous custom to employ one, and the other calling for the certified inspection of air-brakes on railway cars.

Street railwaymen secured support for a proposition to extend the six-day law for Ontario to other provinces; compulsory thirty days training of motormen and conductors one week of this time to be spent in the motor shop and, as a measure of public safety, the prohibition of running street cars with only one attendant.

Bakers sought the prohibition of Sunday work in the province of Quebec; machinists and boilermakers desired that no further assistance be federally given to the G. T. P. until that company made a satisfactory settlement with its shopmen; and moulders in Ontario wanted the appointment of a moulders foundry inspector, and quoted the good results from such an appointment in the province of Quebec.

Longshoremen drew attention to a federal bill introduced at last session of parliament dealing with merchant shipping, and the executive committee was instructed to seek the addition of a clause providing for efficient inspection of loading and unloading machinery the provision of rails upon and nets under gangways, etc., also to have all subsidized shipping companies come within the operation of the dominion fair wages regulations.

Letter-carriers urged the need for a weekly half-holiday during summer months and secured the congress' endorsation of this and also that superannuation be granted to letter-carriers after twenty-five years service.

Note was taken of the abolition in Canada of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches, and better inspection of white lead and white-product factories will be urged. In this connection a resolution was adopted requesting that the dominion conservation commission include occupational diseases among its subjects of research and suggest relief and remedies for same.

Lemieux Act.

The Lemieux act received its quota of attention in resolutions, this time at the hands of the commercial telegraphers. As certain amendments are pending and the executive is already instructed in regard to same the attitude of the congress remains unaltered that is, that the act be suitably amended or repealed.

Five or six resolutions dealing with the unsatisfactory administration of the federal fair wages regulations were debated in the presence of the minister of labor, who arrived on the Tuesday and spent two days in attendance at the convention.

From three different sources came resolutions denouncing the operation of private detective agencies, the employees of which were described as being chiefly of criminal and undesirable classes, and the executive is instructed, together with provincial executives, to seek for government control of all detective agencies, which would mean the abolition of the private agency.

Two resolutions, by the carpenters and the cigarmakers, sought legal protection for union labels and the executive is instructed to make another attempt along those lines.

The principle of compulsory voting at public elections was endorsed as was also the extension of the franchise to women on equal terms.

Several corporations having adopted the system of deducting insurance premiums from workmen's wages, legal protection against this will be sought.

Considerable discussion was evoked by what was held to be unfair discrimination by musicians' unions against other unions at Labor day parades, and a somewhat bitter resolution was substituted by a recommendation that the executive committee confer with the officers of the American Federation of Musicians in regard to the whole question

Constitutional Amendments

A number of constitutional amendments, all presumably emanating from the New Brunswick Federation of Labor, were almost unanimously defeated. One sought the permanent provision of a lobbyist at the New Brunswick legislature; anotheOr to increase the executive committee by adding a vice-president from each province; and still another which sought to make the office of secretary-treasurer a permanent full-time office. A proposition that provincial vice-presidents be brought to the convention at congress expense was also defeated.

A resolution in favor of daily printed proceedings was defeated on the ground that officers' reports and all resolutions were now printed previous to the convention for distribution, and it was agreed that amended or additional resolutions and also organizers' reports should be printed in future for distribution to delegates the following day.

President's Report

The various officers' reports were one of the features of the convention. That of President Watters, as parliamentary representative, occupied ten closely printed pages and related to matters affecting the workers which were dealt with at last session. The eight-hour bill, use of armed men by private corporations, semi-monthly payment of wages on railways, amendments to the Lemieux act, revision of elections act, amendments to railway act, old age pensions, and federal labor bureaus or exchanges are among the subjects dealt with and in connection with which legislation is pending or sought and to which the president has devoted considerable time. As to old age and mothers' pensions, two statements by the chairman of the select committee which has amassed evidence on this subject are worth repeating as showing how that committee has been affected by the testimony submitted. Speaking to the house of commons, Mr. Burnham stated: "The testimony obtained by the committee is absolutely unblemished, and that testimony, taken from all over the country, is overwhelmingly in favor of an old age pension system for Canada. I have no hesitation in saying that if the matter comes to an argument, any objection to an old age pension system would not have a ghost of a show." In another place he stated that "experience has shown that no matter what else we may do, at all hazards and with the least possible delay—railways or no railways—we ought to provide some means for assisting mothers who are left widows with very small children."

Vice-president's Report.

An individual report was this year submitted by Vice-president Bancroft, giving in detail, over eighteen pages, his experiences as representative at the Ontario legislature, dealing more specifically with the new workmen's compensation act of that province. This report will prove a valuable handbook in other provinces where up-to-date workmen's compensation legislation is to be sought. Besides this act, legislation was also obtained which makes Ontario the third province in Canada to prohibit the employment of white girls by Chinese. The hours of children in the canning industry were by law reduced from ten to eight; an act passed giving municipalities power to acquire land within five miles of any city for the erection of workmen's dwellings and a bill promoted by retailers to enable them to garnishee wages to the extent of fifty per cent. of same, was defeated. The present law only allows a garnishee on wages in excess of $25 per week.

[To be concluded next week.]

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Encouraging Progress Being Made and All Ward Sub-committees Busy.

The parliamentary committee of the Trades and Labor council held another encouraging meeting on Wednesday evening. The ward sub-committees reported progress in almost every instance. In ward v. the committee were reluctantly compelled to report the declination of Fred. Hoover as an aldermanic candidate, because of unforeseen difficulties which have arisen since last meeting, which will necessitate the choice of another, and this the committee hope to do by next Wednesday night's meeting. In ward vii. the committee submitted the name of A. V. Lofting, 2561 Trinity street, recording secretary of the Street Railway Employees' union, which was endorsed and the subcommittee instructed to proceed with a nomination meeting in the ward at the earliest possible date. Ex-president Walker was named as chairman of ward ii. and requested to arrange for placing a candidate in that ward if investigation warranted such action. Good progress was reported from South Vancouver, where it is expected that a full labor ticket, from the reeve down, will be placed in the contest. For park commissioner a couple of names were suggested and the ward ii. subcommittee reported that as yet they had been unable to find a suitable candidate, who possessed the property qualifications. The committee decided to meet hereafter every Wednesday evening.

Guelph, Ont., Trades and Labor Council is considering a proposal to buy a site for a labor temple.

CONTRACTOR GETS AWAY AND FAILS TO PAY HIS VICTIMS

Mail advices from members of the Miners' union at Stewart, B. C., indicate that the industrial crisis has also reached that far north. Most of the members of Portland Miners' union are idle and the prospects for the winter are very punk. To add to their troubles a number of wage-workers there were recently swindled out of their wages, after working for a contractor who built a wharf for the provincial government, drew down his money and left for Mexico, leaving the victims who did the work to shift for themselves as best they could. The only consolation for the victims seems to be that a few merchants were also pinched in the flimflam, and this may result in an inquiry as to why the government lets contracts to irresponsible men and makes no provision for the protection of those who actually furnish the supplies and do the work.

STREET RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Reduction of Service and Forces Presents Difficult Problems

Local officers of the Street Railway Employees' union are kept busy looking after the interests of their membership these days. The reduction of operating forces has caused a number of complaints in the matter of seniority, which are being adjusted as rapidly as possible. Traffic seems to be steadily decreasing, a reflex of local conditions, and the prospects for the winter are not particularly bright. The boys are holding together well and doing everything possible to assist the junior employees, by "dividing up" the work.

Discrimination Against Whites

Complaints are reaching officers of the Trades and Labor council that the timber for the new federal government wharf is being largely supplied by a sawmill which employs Orientals almost exclusively, while other mills, manned with local white residents, are working short time. The matter will be looked into and the central labor body asked to take action.

An Ontario By-election

In the by-election in West Hamilton, the fight will be waged probably between labor and conservative candidates only. Mayor Allan is the present choice of the conservatives, but it is rumored that another conservative may be nominated. The independent labor people have not decided on their representative. W. R. Rollo, Sam Landers and Ald. Walters are mentioned.—Toronto Lance.

Will Try the Sword.

W. Garland Foster, for the past six years managing editor of the Nelson Daily News, has decided to drop the pen and try the sword. He will be among the second contingent to take part in the European rumpus.

EXECUTIVES OF THE A.F. OF L. AND T. AND L. C. OF C. TO MEET

Will Hold Important Conference in Philadelphia on Saturday Next

International Presidents and Canadian Delegates Will Also Participate

OTTAWA, B. C., Nov. 5.—(Special to The Federationist)—On suggestion of President Gompers, a conference will be held on Saturday, November 14th, of the executive councils of the American Federation of Labor, Trades and Labor congress of Canada, international presidents, and Canadian delegates to the Philadelphia convention. Amendments to the Lemieux act and other Canadian labor legislation will be discussed. All the executive of Trades and Labor congress will be present.

Send-off to Marsden G. Scott.

The friends, especially those in the printing trades, of Marsden G. Scott, former president of Typographical union, No. 6, who was elected president of the International Typographical union to succeed James M. Lynch, now state labor commissioner, tendered him a reception and dinner as a send-off before he left for headquarters of the I. T. U. at Indianapolis. Scott has been president of No. 6 for three terms altogether, filling this position in 1901 and 1902, as well as last year. He has made a good record for executive ability as president of No. 6, and in spite of the business depression of last year succeeded in building up the membership of the union. Among those who were present at the reception and dinner were: President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor; Labor Commissioner Lynch, Samuel B. Donnelly, former president of No. 6, later public printer and now secretary of the Building Trades Employers' association; John W. Hays, secretary of the I. T. U.; Don C. Seitz, manager of the New York World, and many others, including the officers and many members of No. 6.—New York Daily Call.

Any mother can tell you that her boy learns to swear from the Other Children in the neighborhood.

SASKATOON WILL BID FOR CONGRESS 1916 CONVENTION

Saskatoon Trades and Labor council, some time ago expressed itself as of the opinion that the 1916 convention of the Trades and Labor congress of Canada was about due in that quarter, the congress never having held a convention in the province of Saskatchewan. According to advices received by the chairman of the local congress committee the agitation is now assuming definite form. A special boosting committee is being arranged for and an effort will be made to send a full quota of delegates to the Vancouver convention next September for the purpose of landing the big labor meet. Naturally enough the Saskatoon central labor body expects to be genuinely supported in its bid for the convention by all the other prairie labor organizations.

"SAFETY FIRST!"

Cautious Policy of Vancouver Labor Temple Company Justified

If some of the local unionists who could not see their way clear to invest their savings in Vancouver Labor Temple Company, limited, shares, but who were enamored with the opportunities presented by various trust, brokerage and oil companies, had to make their choice anew they would trust themselves and their own concerns. The wails of a number of the victims of local collapses are not pleasant, but the object lesson is one that might be borne in mind by those who seem to think the labor temple company should pay dividends, with money which sound business policy demands should be used for the liquidation of capital account in the shape of building fund mortgage. The policy of the Vancouver Labor Temple Co., Ltd., directors has been "safety first," where the financial interests of their shareholders have been concerned. The wisdom of this policy and the advisability of its continuance should be apparant to any one with enough intelligence to read of the daily bankruptcy of many business concerns which have been looked upon as being "as good as the bank."

To Honor A. F. of L.

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 31.—Mayor Blankenburg has signed an ordinance appropriating $25,000 for defraying expenses to honor the thirty-fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. A large delegation of local trades unionists were present when the mayor's signature made the act law.—A. F. of L. News-letter.

Day Labor Saved Money

A saving of more than $10,000 was estimated to have been effected by the use of day labor on the China Creek and Canoe Creek trunk sewers by the joint sewerage commission, according to a report placed before the board yesterday morning by Chairman Frank Bowser.

CENTRAL LABOR BODY

Held Busy Session Last Evening and Heard Many Committee Reports

Last night's meeting of Vancouver Trades and Labor council was fairly well attended, with President McVety in the chair and all executive members present. Routine business and the hearing of committee reports took up the greater part of the evening's session. The question of unemployment figured largely in most of the reports.

Four new delegates were seated from the Street Railway Employees', Tailors' and Molders' unions.

A letter from the secretary of Victoria Trades and Labor council, in re the Gillings sedition case, was read. Inasmuch as Gillings had since enlisted, the letter was filed.

A circular-letter from the Civic Reform association, in re the municipal elections, was read and referred to the parliamentary committee.

Delegate J. E. Wilton, secretary of the parliamentary committee, reported progress in the plan to place aldermanic candidates in the field at the forthcoming municipal elections. He urged the delegates, in their respective unions, to assist the committee by bringing to their attention worthy material for candidates, who also possess property qualifications.

Delegate W. R. Trotter presented his report, as the council's representative at the St. John convention of the Trades and Labor congress of Canada. It was received and the thanks of the council unanimously tendered for the splendid work done, including the securing of the 1915 convention.

Delegate Miss Gutteridge reported upon the work being accomplished by the recently organized Women's Employment league. A large number of women were still unprovided for, but the league was doing its best to cope with the situation—along lines already reported in The Federationist.

Vice-president Estinghausen took the chair while President McVety reported, covering his activities on the civic war relief fund committee. Over 500 cases had been dealt with up to yesterday's session. The personnel of the second contingent went to prove that many married men were enlisting for no other reason than that they and their families were in want and the men were willing to sacrifice their lives in order to provide for their wives and kiddies.

Delegate Walker of the Cooks, Waiters and Waitresses' union, reported that they were endeavoring to institute a six-day week for their membership.

Upon motion of Delegates Pettipiece and Kilpatrick, a special committee was appointed to arrange for a fitting commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Trades and Labor council, on December 5th. The committee named were: Delegates Brooks, Malacord, Janes, Bartley and Burkhart.

T. H. Burnham, who was present as a visitor, was invited to the platform and briefly addressed the council.

MORE WATCHMEN NEEDED.

Coroner's Jury Makes Finding in Case C. P. R. Employees' Death.

Before Coroner Jeffs and a jury on Wednesday, an inquest was held upon the bodies of Engineer J. H. Shrapnel and Fireman Harry Morter who were killed in the collision between a C. P. R. freight train and a landslide near Hope, B. C., on Monday morning last. The verdict returned by the jury was as follows: "That the deceased came to their death through their train running into a landslide, and that no blame can be attached to the company or employees, but would add as a rider that in future the patrol system should be increased, especially during the winter months, and that the double heading system carried on by the C. P. R. should be done away with entirely through mountainous country, thus avoiding further disasters to employees, public and rolling stock.

TO COME TO VANCOUVER

Big Seattle Brewing Company Hit Hard by the "Drys."

As the result of the election in the State of Washington last Tuesday, in which the voters decided to declare the state "dry," it is stated that the Seattle Brewing & Malting Company, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the west, and which operates a union plant, will remove its brewery to this city. The company has a payroll running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. A site has already been arranged for from the Great Northern Railway in False Creek, it is said. Other Seattle and State of Washington concerns are also contemplating moving to Vancouver.

Ottawa Theatre Houses Struck

The I. A. of T. S. E. and Musicians, employed in the Dominion theatre, Ottawa, are on strike. General President Shay of the Stage Employees and General President Carruthers of the Musicians, both visited Ottawa, and also Montreal, where two houses are also struck. They addressed a joint meeting of the unions involved at Ottawa, at which President Watters of the Trades and Labor congress of Canada was present, along with Organizers Brunet and Foster of Montreal, who are assisting in the conduct of the strike.

South Vancouver and Point Grey

While in South Vancouver the veto of Reeve Kerr has prevented a cut in the municipal $3 wage for an eight-hour day, it is reported that in Point Grey the wages have been reduced to $2.40, which will cost the reeve his re-election in January.

Loyalty and Loyalty.

Some time ago a certain Vancouver firm appealed to the loyalty of Vancouver citizens, asking them to support home industry. The loyalty of that firm is indicated, in this hour of trial, by the rapidly increasing price of sugar.

Special Typo. Meeting Sunday.

A special meeting of Vancouver Typographical union, No. 226, will be held in the Labor Temple on Sunday next, at 2 p. m. sharp, to deal with the question of unemployment among its members.

"Jack" Hough Dead at Nanaimo.

Jack Place, socialist M. L. A. for Nanaimo, writes under date of November 4th: ". . . It is with the deepest regret that I inform you that our old friend "Jack" Hough passed away this morning.

ST. RAILWAYMEN'S UNION LEADS THEM ALL

America Declared to Have Strongest Street Car Men's Union in World

Conclusions Based Upon Observations and Investigation

No country in the world has a stronger and more effective organization of street car men than the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Employees of America, declares Editor L. D. Bland, of the Union Leader, official journal of the electric employees of Chicago, in a leading article in that paper.

Editor Bland, together with President Mahon, of the street car men, were appointed a commission by the A. F. of L. convention, and have recently returned from their trip abroad.

The commission, naturally, declines to make public their views on municipal ownership, until same are submitted through the American Federation of Labor, but the trip has made Editor Bland enthusiastic over the work being accomplished by his union, and he writes as follows:

"The Amalgamated Association leads them all.

"In no country in the world has the organization of electric railway employees developed to the extent that it has in this country.

"In no other country in the world can the unions of electric railway employees be compared with the various local divisions of the Amalgamated association.

"These are strong statements, but true in every respect.

"They are based upon personal observation in the leading cities of continental Europe and Great Britain.

"In no city in continental Europe or Great Britain among the electric railway employees is there a near approach to the thoroughness of organization that is manifested in our Amalgamated locals in American and Canadian cities.

"In no country in the world has the electric railway employee the freedom that is enjoyed by the men of our craft on the American continent wherever the Amalgamated membership exists.

"The Amalgamated association as a force for freedom—of thought of expression, of action—towers so far above the organizations of electric railway employees of continental Europe and Great Britain that no comparison is possible.

"Whether it be a municipally owned and operated system, a municipally owned and privately operated system, or a privately owned and operated system across the water, there is none that can present the advanced conditions for employees on the whole that are everywhere in evidence in this country wherever the Amalgamated association has planted its banner.

"These conclusions are based upon observation and investigation in Europe during a normal period, prior to the inception of the terrible conflict that is now raging where autocracy maddens and misery results to millions.

"Nowhere on the civilized globe has there been an organization of electric railway employees established that has achieved so much, or brought the genuine comforts of the individual worker, and for the improvement of the home surroundings, as the Amalgamated association has on the continent of America"

Street Railwaymen's Union.

The Street Railwaymen's International union is making splendid progress according to the report of the auditors. The balance on hand on January 31, 1914, was $260,13071, and the receipts from February 1st to July 1st were $226,353.93, or a total of $486,484.66. Disbursements from February 1st to July 1st, 1914, were $196,162.23. The total funds at the headquarters of the association on July 31st, 1914, were $290,322.43. The increase was $30,191.72, during the six months. During the six months $97,550 was paid out upon 210 deaths. The average death claim paid was for $464.52. In six months there was paid out in strikes and lockouts, $13,735. The strikes covered a period of 2,747 weeks.

Dunn—Walsh.

A pretty wedding took place in St. Patrick's church, Mount Pleasant, on Tuesday morning last, when Miss M. A. Walsh became the life helpmeet of Wm. F. Dunn, of the Electrical Workers' union. The Federationist joins with the many friends of the popular young couple in Vancouver in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Dunn an enjoyable honeymoon in the south, a safe return, and all the good things in life ever after.

Crawfish Progress.

The day of the "boot-legger" is at hand in the state of Washington, joining B. C. to the south. Last Tuesday the electors turned down the eight-hour day and voted for a permit system of securing beer and liquor that was discarded, because of its perniciousness, in the Canadian northwest territories more than twenty years ago. Some progressives, those Washington people.

Casualties Among Industrial Army.

According to the record of industrial accidents maintained by the department of labor, 55 work-people were killed and 232 injured during the month of September 1914. The record for August was 77 killed and 289 injured, and that for September, 1913, 123 killed and 627 injured.

Washington State F. of L.

The Washington State Federation of Labor will hold its annual convention at Olympia, Wash., beginning January 18, 1915.

Give the Children a Chance

Parents who have children attending the Vancouver city schools, and who do not wish to see them grow up tainted with the poison of race hatred, will be well advised to cautiously question them as to what they are being told about the war. Also what they are not being told about it. The necessity for this has been made plain by a news item which appeared in the Daily Province of October 28th. It contains an account of some of the children in one of the schools refusing to sing a song which they were being taught, because it was by a German composer. In another school a selection used, was sung to music by Beethoven, and the boys refused to sing it when they discovered the nationality of the composer.

If men behaved in that way, it would be said that they were childish, and narrow-minded. And that a genius whose work had endeared him to music-lovers the world over, had long since been lifted far above and beyond the narrow limits of nationalism, by the surpassing quality of his art. That is the place which Beethoven occupies in the minds of all men of breadth and tolerance. They could no more think of the Moonlight Sonata being the exclusive property of one nation, than they could of Home Sweet Home, or Shakespeare's plays, or Grimm's fairy tales. Such things have an universal appeal to the artistic instinct of all men and women, no matter where they were born. That is to say, all men and women with minds bigger than those of mice, and who do not belong to that detestable type which thinks that the world only revolves as the result of resolutions passed at a meeting held round the village pump.

Only to men and women who are big enough to rise above such pitiful parochialism should the education of children be entrusted. It depends upon them, in a large measure, to offset the pernicious effect of that teaching which imbues the coming men and women of the race with the idea that their kind in other countries are to be looked upon with more or less scorn, just according to the frame of mind in which international diplomats may happen to be in. But reading the account of the incidents to which attention is here drawn, it is apparent that at least one of our local educators is sadly in need of a little real education himself.

In the article referred to he is credited thus:

> Mr. George P. Hicks, supervisor of singing in the city schools, has during the past few days been much impressed with the spirit of loyalty of Vancouver's school-children. On two occasions he has seen the children go on strike against the singing of German songs.

Having thus shewed his weakness before the children, who knew no better because they had not been taught, he completely surrendered himself and came down to the level of their immature intelligence, for:

> Again Mr. Hicks did not press the matter and later acknowledged that it gave him a good deal of satisfaction to see how deep-rooted was the sentiment of loyalty on the part of the children.

What Mr. Hicks chooses to call loyalty in this case, is nothing more than the seeds of what in future years becomes the racial animosity which makes such a war as is now going on, possible. The British press is persistently assuring its own people, and the world in general, that there is no quarrel with the common people of Germany, but that the fight is solely against the Kaiser and his military bureaucracy. If that is true—and presumably Mr. Hicks believes it is—then he had a real man's chance to point that out to those boys and girls. Instead of that he allowed their youthful mistake to pass by, and to become embedded in their plastic minds, from whence it may some day come forth again, making them the unwitting and hayless tools of the war-mongers of the future.

In the children, one can understand the mistake. But the deliberate encouragement of such things by a teacher, should serve as a warning to all intelligent parents who hope better things for their children than to have them end their days killing workmen like themselves, because they were not taught those truths which will save the world in the future from such horrors as are now going on in Europe. One of the oldest, strongest, and most subtly organized institution the world has ever seen, has for one of its maxims this: "Give us the child, and we shall not fear for the man." There is a wealth of wisdom in it, distilled from ages of experience, and those who would have an end to war, its causes, and subsequent misery, will do well to ponder upon its meaning.

J. W. W.

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"Unity of Labor; the hope of the world."
FRIDAY.. .. ..NOVEMBER 6, 1914

FUSSY OLD LADIES of both sexes in Britain—including his Right Reverence, the bachelor bishop of London—are making the welkin ring with their wails, because the recently published report of the registrar general shows that the birth-rate is falling off. This has grown to be a sort of perennial malady with them. His Majesty the Baby is not doing the square thing in their opinion, for the birth-rate is the lowest ever yet recorded. Moreover, adults of marriageable age are not seeking admission to the mystic shrine of Hymen in such numbers as to cause any crush at the ticket office. This applies especially to women, who are eluding matrimony until the flood tide of fertility is on the ebb. It would take the wisdom of a hundred Solomons to trace every one of the probable causes of this state of things to their real foundation. But among the influences that have played their part is the entrance of women into competition with men in the economic life of the world. To a certain extent that is the result of a demand for cheaper labor. It is also partly due to women, with brain and initiative, realizing that matrimony, as a method of earning a living, is not essentially different—in its ethical aspect—from something more varied perhaps in practice, but unpleasantly similar in theory.

CRADLE, ALTAR AND GRAVE

* * * *

Moreover, the woman of to-day, with a mental horizon a good deal wider than her grandmother, is quietly enforcing her desire to be something more than a mere breeding animal. The "upper classes" have long since ridiculed the large family out of their scheme of life, although they have not approved or encouraged such a course among the "lower orders." Race suicide—as blatant humbugs like Roosevelt call it—has, up to within recent years, been the exclusive privilege of the rich. As long as it remained so, it was seldom heard of, but now that it is establishing itself in the social life of the intelligent part of the proletariat, it becomes quite a different matter. Of course it is not a subject that "nice" people care to handle, but, being confronted with the choice of handling it, or being handled by it, they become human just long enough to choose the first of those two courses. It appears also, from the report referred to, that married women engaged in the textile trades have the smallest families. How painfully prosaic the announcement sounds, just as a plain piece of news! The registrar is only a recorder of facts and it is not his business to go into pathological details.

* * * *

In order to make that part of his report really intelligible, it would be necessary to say that married women who work in those textile factories, for the most part do their work standing. In order to hold their jobs, they stay at their machines up to the last possible moment previous to their confinement, and make every effort to be back at their work the first day after the four week's absence prescribed by law. This is perhaps not the place to enter into a detailed discussion of the effect which standing all day has upon the genitals of a woman who has just risen from child-bed. But any honest physician knows that it occupies one of the top places on the list of those causes which are responsible for a reduced birth rate, not to mention the part which it plays in that long category of concentrated agony, which is part of the price women pay for the privilege of being women. If the registrar were also the recorder of natural abortions, his report would be an immensely more human and damning document than it is. One very thought-provoking matter which he mentions is, that coal miners have bigger families that other members of the general population. In view of the number of miners who are killed, the assertion seems true on the face of it, otherwise there would be no miners, or at least a dearth of them.

* * * *

Probably one of the causes of it is the appalling promiscuity of the conditions under which so many thousands of coal miners have to live in Britain. They are housed in long dreary rows of "brick boxes with slate lids," and containing the minimum amount of privacy and sanitary equipment. A bath room is not considered by the landlord as a necessary part of such houses, despite the fact that a miner above all others, must have a bath daily after his return from work. The make-shift methods which have to be adopted are well well-known, and calculated in every way to reduce the miners limited opportunities for preserving domestic decency to a minimum. It would tax the ingenuity of a Munchausen, to describe the dwelling place of a miner, in a typical British mining village, as a house. From all of which, and more, it is plain that when the registrar makes his report on births, marriages and deaths, it is not so much the mere figures which are interesting, as the facts which lie at the back of them. Our worthy bishop being a "nice" man, does not care to outrage his olfactory apparatus by delving into such social garbage. He has a palace all to himself at Lambeth, and the malordorous emanations of the national muck-heap, do not violate its aesthetic sanctity sufficient to cause discomfort.

TALK ABOUT CONSCRIPTION in Britain, to meet the war requirements of the military authorities, is quite a topical topic in the newspapers over there just now. Some journals only hint at its possibility, while others take the bolder stand that it will have to come. All of them, however, seem to think that the only obection to such a proposal would come from the masses, who would not relish the coercive flavor of such a step. It occurs to us that there may possibly be another side to the question. Conscription, or the compulsory training in military skill of the entire male population, opens up the possibility of it being rather an embarrassment than an advantage, after it had served the immediate purposes of the war. No one with properly balanced judgment, thinks that when the war is over and national life resumes its normal course, the essential position of the working class will be any different from what it was before, or that strikes will be a thing of the past

YESTERDAY TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

* * * *

On the other hand, if the aftermath is unemployment, poverty and industrial unrest,—as has been the case subsequent to previous wars—the workers will be forced into action which will call forth the same measures of repression which have been expressed by the use of military force, twelve times in seven years, against organized labor, by the present Liberal government. If, in such a contingency, the majority of those workmen had a practical knowledge of military tactics and weapons, the outcome might not be quite so devoid of actual conflict as similar episodes of a previous kind have been. Or it may be, that the more astute minds feel that general compulsory service might create a fraternity of interest among the masses which would not entirely die down as the result of a portion of them returning to civil life. These considerations, and others like them, undoubtedly exercise a potent influence with the authorities when they think the matter over. They tolerate the bluff directness of men like Lord Roberts, who by reason of their specialized training only see one side of the matter. His one idea is to produce men who can fight. But the politicians have a double object in view. They want men who can fight when war is on, and who, at the same time, can be ruled when war is over. Hence their wariness in approaching the conscription plan. If they made up their minds that they wanted it, they could get it, especially at a time like this. But they are not sure they want it. There is another day to-morrow.

THE HEART OF THE C. P. R., through its land settlement department, is just aching for the poor peasants of Belgium, who have been driven from house and home by a ruthless enemy. Just aching for the poor peasants, not for their woes. Perfetc clarity of understanding is necessary regarding that point, in order that the inward quality of some of the charity which is being hatched for these Belgians may be appreciated to the limit of its worth. For the C. P. R. to bring those folk to Canada, and settle them on farm lands which people with money have nosed over and cast aside a hundred times, would be a very good investment for the railway company. It would also mean a life-long mortgage upon the diligence and industry of the new settlers. However, if a systematic effort is made to bring them, they will most likely come; for doubtless any kind of a proposition will look good to them just now. Moreover, if the political history of Belgium during the past ten years is any guide to the average of intelligence to be found among Belgians, then from that standpoint they should be immensely superior to the average new arrival from "owme." And after living here long enough to be naturalized—by which time they would realize in practical fashion the land situation here—they would most probably exercise an influence in politics which would cause no regret from a working-class standpoint. Anyhow, they could not make it any worse than it is now.

SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY

A FEW MEN CONTROL the industries of the world A few men manage the affairs of every fraternal body. A few men direct the business of labor organizations. Whether or not it is desirable it does not alter the fact. From this proceeds two ideas—the deliberate building of a machine, and the natural formation of a militant minority which gathers itself together by the mutual attraction which each part has for the other. The capitalist machine rules for its own benefit without any real regard for the wishes of the whole body social, but justifies its actions by wordy pretence that it is actuated by motives directly opposite to those which govern it. That is the essential function of a machine as such.

MILITANT MINORITIES AND MACHINES

* * * *

But the militant minority is quite another matter. It is composed of the more active, alert, and aggressive spirits, who possess the mentality to divine, and the stamina to carry out, the imperfectly expressed desires and hazy aspirations of the whole body. Its keynote is action toward the ends to which the whole body aspires, and none who are willing and able to do their part in that work, can be prevented by any scheming or artificial attempts from getting into that group. The militant minority is the visualizing of the hopes held by the mass, and it can no more escape the limitations of the body within which it operates than a social order can rise above the average level of intelligence of its members Where the machine tries to retain knowledge so as to be more secure in its hold upon the main body, the militant minority seeks to spread knowledge so as to add to its numbers.

I. W. W. CONVENTIONS in the past, have been among the liviest of the labor gatherings of this continent. Unkind critics have described them as donnybrooks and bear gardens. Others more friendly, have looked upon their proceedings as the natural result of so much intellectual power congregating on one spot at one time. Be that as it may, it would seem that the glory which was, is no more. It is admitted by themselves, that their recent convention in Chicago was a disappointment to the I. W. W. Delegates were sadly reduced in numbers; none were there from the Pacific coast, and the convention only lasted four days, instead of at least two weeks, as it has done previous years.

R. I. P. THE I. W. W.

* * * *

In its place and time, the I. W. W. has fulfilled a function which none but a body of that kind could do. And just so long as there are large bodies and districts of unfranchised workers, so long will some organization like the I. W. W. remain. But as an instrument for the attainment of real freedom and liberty it was largely a joke. Freedom to the I. W. W. only meant freedom for the I. W. W. It was self hypnotised with language, and failure to use the mumbo-jumbo jargon correctly, as laid down by the autocracy of this super-democracy, was to be branded as one of the 57 different varieties of fools or knaves who constitute the entire population of the world outside the Bummery.

BRITISH DOCKERS HAVE FELT the blow of unemployment caused by the war, as much as any. In a survey of their position, recently made, it is shewn that work at London docks is falling off apace, and the same is true of Bristol. At Cardiff and Barry, an improvement is shewn, but taking conditions in all ports, the average is 50 per cent. more out of work than usually at this time of the year.

BRITISH DOCKERS' CONDITIONS

* * * *

At a few of the ports, where embarkation of troops and stores is going on, wages have actually been raised. For instance, Plymouth, where the rate for loading coal has remained fixed for twenty years, an advance of 25 per cent. in wages has been obtained. The dockers were officially thanked by the government for their work in facilitating the embarkation of the first troops for France. After their experience of the same government three years ago, they will know how to take the blarney with a full sense of what it is really worth. But it is not likely to make them change Ben Tillet for Lord Devonport. This is a good place for the dockers to keep their memories alive.

Judge Grant is much perturbed, because he feels that very few out of the 1,100 foreigners who have appeared before him for naturalization during the last three months, are anxious to go to the front. He says: "We want men of character for citizens of this country of ours." It's too bad not to be able to take that kind of thing seriously, but really after all the gush and hyperbole, it is not men of character—if "character" means the ability to think for themselves—who are wanted here. The kind the judge and his class like, are men who think as they are told, believe as they are told and vote as they are told. "Men of character," indeed! Why, there are thousands of them, citizens bred and born, actually starving in one part or another of this province. When a man comes here, he had much better bring a paid up card of the Orange Order than a character, if he wants to go ahead.

"Be good. If you can't be good, keep your mouth shut about it."

Most people get their thoughts thought for them — ready-made like "reach me down" clothing—or predigested like patent breakfast food. Words and phrases are used more than ideas. This applies particularly to pulpits and politics. When ideas are used they are generally clothed in the whiskers of an age of current usage. If it were possible to compute, it would be interesting to know just how much real original thinking is done by the average man. To judge by the world to-day, not very much.

As choice an aggregation as can be seen anywhere outside a vaudeville show, is the motley bunch of mixed politicians known as the Civic Reform League. Mountebank parsons, discredited politicians, and a sprinkling of sycophants who profess to the ability to administer the affairs of the city, in spite of the fact that their personal appearance proclaims that they cannot control their own weaknesses, even at present distance from the public treasury. They are full to the brim with platform, platitudes, and prunes.

Archdeacon Forneret of Toronto says:

"Able-bodied young men of Canada who fail to join the militia and undergo the light burdens of military training which enlistment involves should be deprived of the right to vote and other privileges of citizenship."

The gentleman suggests that they should be put on the same footing as the majority of workmen in Great Britain, who have no vote or anything else, except the carcases they live in.

The fact of the age is that co-operation between both individuals and nations is more profitable than war. When a twentieth century nation goes out to kill and conquer it injures itself—meaning thereby its people—as much as it injures its enemies. In trade, science and literature the world is bound together by ties of self-interest. Internationalism will come because it is more profitable than nationalism. Fraternity among men will not come because some maudlin jelly-back has written a book to say it ought to, but because men will discover that the world's affairs can best be carried on from that basis. When that comes about, the thinking of the world may be reasonably said to have caught up with its material interest.

Rev. Dr. Fraser one of the more enterprising and spectacular of the spiritual pastors of our fair city, announces a programme of sermons, to be delivered by him during the present month. The list is as follows:

November 1st, "Ought We to Sing God Save the King?" November 8th, "Why Great Britain Is at War"; November 15th, "Canada's Duty in the Present Crisis"; November 29th, "Problem of the Unemployed."

The order in which the subjects are arranged—which, we presume, is according to their importance in the opinion of Dr. Fraser—suggests an additional one, such as say, "An Inquiry into the Probable Causes of the Reduced Numbers of Working-class Church-goers."

Vancouver Daily Province sometimes hits the mark, if only by accident. On the question of soldiers and alcohol it says:

The Russian problem of vodka is altogether different. The government has abolished its monopoly and has forbidden its sale for the present. The trouble in Russia has been the conditions under which the peasant lives, and the vileness of the liquor with which the government has supplied him. The Russian government has hitherto considered vodka less dangerous and more profitable than education.

Education in this respect, teaches the utilitarian value of moderation—something which mere preaching and threats of future perdition have not been able to accomplish.

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Applications for lease must be made by the applicant in person to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

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Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

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NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER TRADES AND LABOR Council—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 8 p. m. in Labor hall. President, H. Knudson; financial secretary, R. A. Stoney; general secretary, W. E. Maiden. P. O. Box 934. The public is invited to attend.

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS' LOCAL No. 495—Meets every second and fourth Friday of month in Labor hall, 7:30 p. m. President, D. Webster; secretary, A. McLaren. P. O. Box 956, New Westminster, B. C.

VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Meets first and third Wednesday, Labor hall, 781 Johnston street, at 8 p. m. President A. S. Wells; secretary, Thos. F. Mathison, Box 302, Victoria, B. C.

VANCOUVER UNIONS

TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL — Meets first and third Thursdays. Executive board: Jas. H. McVety, president; Frank Estinghauser, vice-president; Geo. Bartley, general secretary, 216 Labor Temple; Miss H. Gutteridge, treasurer; Fred A. Hoover, statistician; sergeant-at-arms, John Sully; G. Curnock, F. Knowles, W. R. Trotter, trustees.

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BARBERS' LOCAL No. 120.—MEETS second Tuesday in each month 8.30 p. m. President, J. Bruce; reecorder, C. E. Herritt; secretary-business agent, C. F. Burkhart, Room 208, Labor Temple. Hours: 11 to 1; 5 to 7 p.m.

BARTENDERS' LOCAL No. 676.—Office, Room 208 Labor Temple. Meets first Sunday of each month. President, F. F. Lavigne; financial secretary, Geo. W. Curnock, Room 208, Labor Temple.

BRICKLAYERS' AND MASONS', NO. 1 —Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m., Room 307. President, James Haslett; corresponding secretary, W. E. Dagnall, Box 53; financial secretary, F. R. Brown; business agent, W. S. Dagnall, Room 215.

BROTHERHOOD OF BOILER MAKERS and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, Vancouver Lodge No. 191—Meets first and third Mondays, 8 p. m. President, F. Barclay, 353 Cordova East; secretary, A. Fraser, 1151 Howe street.

COOKS, WAITERS AND WAITRESSES Union—Meets first Friday in each month, 8:30 p. m., Labor Temple. W. E. Walker, business representative. Office: Room 208, Labor Temple. Hours: 9 a. m. to 10:30; 1 to 2:30 and 5 p. m. to 6:00 p. m. Competent help furnished on short notice. Phone Sey. 3414.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS meets in room 209, Labor Temple, second and fourth Thursday of each month, 8 p. m. President, G. H. Hardy; secretary, F. L. Barratt; treasurer, W. T. Taylor. Local No. 217 meets first and third Monday of each month, and Local 2647 meets first and third Tuesday of each month.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 213 —Meets room 301, Labor Temple, every Monday, 8 p. m. President, Dave Fink; vice-president, M. Sander; recording secretary, Roy Elgar, Labor Temple; financial secretary and business agent, E. H. Morrison, room 207, Labor Temple.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 621 (Inside Men)—Meets first and third Mondays of each month. Room 205, 8 p. m. President, H. R. Van Sickle; recording secretary, J. M. Campbell; business agent, F. L. Estinghausen, Room 207.

HODCARRIERS, BUILDING AND COMMON Laborers' union, No. 65—Meets first and third Friday of each month, Labor Temple. President, George Gibson; secretary, George Harrison, room 220, Labor Temple. All laborers invited to meeting.

MACHINISTS, NO. 182—MEETS SECOND and fourth Fridys at 8 p. m. President, A. R. Towler; recording secretary, J. Brookes; financial secretary, J. H. McVety.

MOVING PICTURE OPERATORS, Local 348 I. A. T. S. E.—Meets first Sunday of each month, Labor Temple, 8 p.m. President H. C. Roddan; secretary-treasurer, L. E. Goodman; recording secretary, A. O. Hansen; business agent, G. R. Hamilton. Office Room 100, Loo Bldg. Tel. Sey. 3045.

MUSICIANS' MUTUAL PROTECTIVE Union, Local No. 145, A. F. of M.—Meets second Sunday of each month, rooms 29-30, Williams Building, 413 Granville street. President, J. Bowyer; vice-president, F. English; secretary, H. J. Brasfield; treasurer, W. Fowler.

OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, No. 89 — Meets every first and third Wednesday in the month in room 301, Labor Temple. President, A. Hurry; corresponding secretary, F. Sumpter, 1520 Twenty-third avenue east; financial secretary, D. Scott, 577 Richards street; treasurer, L. Tyson.

PAINTERS', PAPERHANGERS', AND Decorators', Local 138—Meets every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. President, H. Grand; financial secretary, J. Freckleton, 1023 Comox street; recording secretary, R. Dowding, 622 Howe street. Business agent, James Train, Room 303, Labor Temple.

PATTERN MAKERS' LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA.—Vancouver and vicinity. Branch meets 1st and 3rd Fridays at Labor Temple, room 205. Robert C. Sampson, Pres., 747 Dunlevy Ave.; Jos. G. Lyon, financial secretary, 1731 Grant street; J. Campbell, recording secretary, 4849 Argyle street.

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STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY Employees, Pioneer Division No. 101 —Meets Labor Temple second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and first and third Wednesdays, 8 p.m. President, W. H. Cottrell; recording secretary, Albert V. Lofting, 2561 Trinity street; financial secretary and business agent, Fred. A. Hoover, 2409 Clark Drive.

STEAM ENGINEERS, INTERNATIONAL Local 897—Meets every Wednesday 8 p. m., room 204, Labor Temple. Financial secretary, E. Prendergast, room 216.

TAILORS' INDUSTRIAL UNION (International), Local No. 178—Meetings held first Tuesday in each month, 8 p. m. President, Miss H. Gutteridge; recording secretary, C. McDonald, Box 503; financial sec., K. Paterson, P. O. Box 503.

THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, LOCAL No. 118—Meets second Sunday of each month at room 204, Labor Temple. President, H. Spears; recording secretary, Geo. W. Allin, P. O. Box 711, Vancouver.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, NO. 226—Meets last Sunday of each month at 2 p. m. President, R. P. Pettipiece; vice-president, W. S. Metzger; secretary-treasurer, H. Neelands, P. O. Box 69.

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LABOR FEDERATION CONVENTION AT CALGARY

Many Legislative Measures Discussed and Presented to Government

New Officers Elected and Headquarters Removed to the Capital City

By L. T. ENGLISH.

The second annual convention of the Alberta Federation of Labor was held in the Labor Temple, Calgary, on Nov. 12th, 13th and 14th. All sections and trades in the province were well represented, especially the miners from district No. 18, but there were no delegates present from the United Farmers of Alberta, which organization seems bent upon playing a lone hand, although some of its locals are still affiliated with the provincial federation.

President John Pearson, of Calgary Typographical union, filling the position of chairman of the local entertainment committee, called the initial meeting to order at 10 a. m., and after a brief address of welcome, introduced Mayor Sinnott, who extended a cordial civic welcome to the delegates and declared himself in sympathy with the aims and ideals of organized labor, and thought the time had come when a degree of state socialism was both desirable and necessary.

Mr. T. M. Tweedie, M. L. A. for Calgary, gave those present the benefit of his criticism and advice which was neither unwelcome or far from the point. He said that when labor unions were led to take an ill-considered and unreasonable attitude on any question, which he knew they sometimes did, that it was bound to react to the discredit of the labor movement and weaken their position before the public whose opinion generally ruled in such matters, but he felt that organized labor had a great work to do and a great cause to advance and that in advancing that cause, if organized labor followed the leadership of its most experienced and dependable men, and presented its case reasonably but firmly, there was no element in any community which could stop them achieving their objects, so long as those objects were sane and practical and made for the general betterment of the workers' conditions. Mr. Tweedie was followed by the president of Calgary Trades and Labor council, who made an apologetic speech as to why Calgary council was not affiliated with the Alberta Federation of Labor. This subject, which related to internal affairs, was not in good taste, but was listened to patiently but awakened no enthusiasm.

President John O. Jones, of Lethbridge, then took the gavel and called the convention to order for the transaction of serious business. On recommendation of the president the proceedings were thrown open to the press and public.

The reports of officers were read and submitted to committee on officers reports. All officers reported except the board member for District 18, U. M. W. A.

The executive committee submitted a lengthy agenda of proposed legislation which had been previously dealt with in committee. This included a recommendation as to a new compensation act on the lines of Washington state and Ontario; a new act governing outside electrical construction; amendments to the provincial legislation governing moving picture theatres and operators; factory and workshop inspection, ventilation and sanitation.

When the report of the committee on constitution was taken up the grievance of Calgary Trades and Labor Council received full ventilation. There is a clause in the constitution which provides that delegates to convention from central bodies must be members of local unions which are affiliated. This clause has been law since the initial convention when Calgary Trades and Labor Council was represented in its drafting, and same was assented to by them. Afterwards Calgary Trades and Labor Council was led to object to this clause by certain of its members who would like to sit in judgment on the affairs of the Federation, but who don't care enough for its welfare to secure the affiliation of their local union to the provincial federation. The move to alter this clause was emphatically sat upon by the convention, as delegates whose unions had been paying the great part of the Federation's expense felt the clause to be a necessary safeguard to head off just such types of union men as objected to it. The miners from District 18 secured an amendment to the constitution which gives them two members on the executive board. This move was felt by many, even miners themselves, to be a bit one-sided, as the miners are the only trade in the province which have a seat on the executive accorded them, and to increase this to two means more expense in conducting the work. It seems uncalled for, too, because district No. 18 has not made full use of the one seat they already possess.

The report of the resolutions committee embraced some 25 subjects of a legislative and progressive character, the main one being that dealing with the present industrial depression and unemployment.

Fair-wage Officer McNiven was present and took part in the debate on this, which was acknowledged to be by far the most important matter for consideration.

The debate brought out the fact that Alberta is blessed with as great a diversion of cults and opinions as most other places. The labor-party man was there to bemoan the poor success of past efforts to secure working-class representation in parliaments and governments. The labor-socialist was there to urge not only what the labor-party man proposed but that all the united power of organized labor should be exerted to force the provincial and federal governments to assume responsibility for the carrying on of industry which had entirely broken down under capitalist management. The anarchist was there to urge the "organization of the unemployed" into a force to be used for insurrection to break into the storehouses and appropriate goods and wealth wherever found.

These three opinions represent almost distinct groups in the labor movement here; the two first bid fair to eventually merge together and form the advanced guard of labor. The latter opinion, while pure anarchy, is advocated by a group who style themselves socialists. More will be heard of these contentions later. Meantime the federation will probably follow along the middle course of inducing the governments to recognize their responsibility for economic conditions and provide work and wages for the unemployed. The road to political action in elections is not clear yet, and the propaganda of such alleged socialists is not the least stumbling block in the way. The action taken by the federation's executive in this matter will be published later.

The miners submitted a resolution condemning the Alberta government in its dealing with the Hillcrest mine disaster relief fund. A substitute motion to forego condemnation until the executive committee had tried to adjust the difficulty was opposed by them and defeated. The result was that the federation was put on record as condemning the government's action, merely because district No. 18 had condemned it. The unfairness of this position never seemed to strike the movers. The resolution itself has since been acknowledged to contain a glaring misstatement of fact and the movers have since asked for its withdrawal and suppression. This should be a warning to all against hasty and ill-considered actions of any kind.

A resolution which will probably occasion widespread discussion was introduced by Vice-president English and concurred in. This resolution calls for an entire readjustment of the legislative bodies of organized labor in Canada in their inter-relations and seeks the aid of other provincial bodies to work this out. The proposal is, roughly, that the Canadian Trades and Labor congress work for the establishing of provincial federations in all those provinces that are now without them. After these are established, the dominion legislative body is asked to be made to consist of the provincial executives in convention. Local trades and labor councils are to hold their charters from their respective federations. This will do away with local unions paying per capita to two organizations and will serve to make the positions and functions of these various bodies clear to all union men. It would also secure equal representation in dominion affairs from all sections of the country, and cut down the present heavy expense of dominion congress conventions.

The brewery-workers secured the passage of a resolution instructing the executive committee to do what they could to protect their trade as threatened by proposed prohibitory legislation. More will be heard of this later as a plebiscite is to be taken of the province.

It was an open secret that this convention was in a way a test of the past policy of the Alberta Federation of Labor. The anarchist-socialist group who secured the retirement of Clem Stubbs as president of district No. 18, because he approved of the candidature of John O. Jones in Lethbridge in the late provincial elections as a labor representative, were present in full force. Very early in the convention they were forced to forsake their main position, that is opposition to the federation's main function—the securing of remedial legislation. The fight then assumed the form of a raid on the funds for charitable purposes. This was not carried through to the extent originally proposed, but the federation has established a fund and will seek to add to it for to supplement the public funds for the relief of Hillcrest victims. Then this group scored a point by adding another vice-president for district No. 18, which will add to the expense of executive committee meetings without serving any necessary purpose. This smoldering fight, which ran all through the convention, became more open in the contest for the office of president. John O. Jones had announced his intention of retiring, as he had been president now for two years and he could point with pride that the federation had steadily progressed while he was at its head, until it was now the most powerful labor body in the province. Joseph Knight of Edmonton, whose candidature in Lethbridge was largely responsible for the defeat of Jones, was nominated for president. Knight was present at the last convention and moved that the federation be dissolved, declaring that the union men of Edmonton would not support it. Events have proved him wrong in that particular. Alex. Ross of Calgary, a well-known advocate of political action by organized labor was placed in nomination as was also Byron Vickrage, vice-president for Medicine Hat. On the first ballot Knight had a lead of four over Ross. This eliminated Vickrage, and on the second ballot Ross was elected president by a substantial majority.

The nominees for the office of secretary-treasurer were Byron W. Bellamy of Medicine Hat, and A. Farmilo of Edmonton, resulting in a victory for the latter, and on motion of Brother Bellamy the election of Farmilo was made unanimous. Edmonton being unanimously conceded the place of next convention, coupled with the fact that Edmonton union men, under the able guidance of Brother Farmilo have advanced far along the path of political action, were powerful factors in securing his election.

According to constitution, the other vice-presidents and members are appointed by the labor bodies in their respective localities and remained as before, namely: L. T. English, Calgary; W. Graham, district No. 18; A. Farmilo, Edmonton; W. Alfred, Lethbridge, and Byron Vickrage, Medicine Hat. D. Rees, district No. 18, was later added pro tem. to committee by the district board. He did not, however, accompany the delegation to Edmonton. Ex-president Jones, who is also a member of district No. 18, accompanied the delegation in an advisory capacity, at the unanimous invitation of the executive board, there being some legislative matters affecting the miners still pending for adjustment, and it was felt that his familiarity with those subjects would be of great value to the miners and to the federation itself.

Brother John Pearson of Calgary Typographical union and the local entertainment committee were able to entertain the delegates and their friends right nobly. The convention was treated to an entertainment at the Pantages theatre, and afterwards a banquet was spread in the Empire hotel cafe. Abundance of good things to eat and drink put the familiar devil (hard times) to rout, and a pleasant evening was passed in song, speeches and stories, and that spirit of good-fellowship asserted itself to a degree which showed that at bottom all labor men stand first for solidarity, and our differences of cult and creed are not so deep or abiding after all.

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LEO. T. ENGLISH

A vice-president of the Alberta Federation of Labor, who deals with the recent Calgary convention in this issue of The Federationist.

A Message from J. J. Taylor.

Editor B. C. Federationist: Dear friend and brother,—I have just received a letter from the minister of labor, in reply to my letter asking for his influence in obtaining my pardon. He replied and told me that you had been speaking to him about it, while at Ottawa recently, and that he would do all that lay in his power to do so. I wish to thank you for what you have done.

I think organized labor is moving in the right direction, when they are devoting more of their time on the political field. Labor must have the men in that "rock pile" at Victoria, and it matters not under what name they get there, as long as the right men get there.

I am sorry to inform you that Bro. Robt. Walkenshaw will have passed over the Great Divide ere you receive this letter. Mortification has set in, and he is deaf and blind. He was the victim of the shooting affair that took place in the union hall some few weeks ago—shot by an officer.

Few of the old hands are getting back to work at Ladysmith or Nanaimo. They are starting new men, however. There are about 300 Austrians and Germans working in Nanaimo—all of whom were imported during the late strike. J. J. TAYLOR.

Ladysmith, B. C., Nov. 3, 1914.

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LETTERS TO THE FED.

A Voice from Sydney

Editor B. C. Federationist: I have received a copy of report of proceedings of the St. John convention of the Trades Congress of Canada. With regard to the pronouncement of the executive of congress and the war there seems to be a strange inconsistency somewhere. For instance the report of the executive says: "We also feel that in this unfortunate struggle is involved a principle which should have our undivided support." Will the executive kindly tell us what is the principle involved and the reason why it should receive our individual support? Perhaps the answer is contained in the following statement found in the same paragraph of the executive's report from which the previous question was taken: "The German people have labored for years under a despotism which should have no place in twentieth century civilization;" and, "the workers are not for a moment willing to change our present institutions for German despotism and desire that the German people should have the way made clearer towards their freedom." Is the principle involved freedom for the German people and resistance against German despotism being imposed upon us? If so, it may be asked since when have the ruling class or war lords of Great Britain stood for or fought for democracy and freedom against autocracy and repression and would they not, if they could, place the same restraint to freedom on, and exact the same military service from, the people of Britain as that from which the German people suffer? But the executive says in the first paragraph of this section of the report, "More than once has the congress in convention expressed itself as of the opinion that those who make the quarrels among the ruling class of the world should be allowed to do the fighting." Is it not a contradiction then to say that the workers should give this war its undivided support when, according to the executive, it is "a quarrel among the ruling class," and "they should be allowed to do the fighting"? Is it not also a contradiction of this other statement in the report: "Your executive council recommend that the convention reaffirm its utter abhorrence of war as a means of settling disputes"?

The executive says further: "Great Britain and France are fighting together as they must always stand together for the forces of democracy against autocracy." The truth of that statement is demonstrated, of course, by the fact of France being in alliance with Russia—land of freedom, liberty of thought and action and sweetly pure democracy and because of her alliance with democratic Russia. France was dragged into the conflict. So then we have the spectacle of democratic Russia engaged in a war to bring the blessings of democracy and freedom to the oppressed and autocratically-governed people of Germany. France was unwillingly dragged into the noble fight for democracy and freedom by reason of her alliance with Russia. And Great Britain? The executive says: "This is evidently not a war of Great Britain's choosing." So then Great Britain did not choose to fight for democracy and freedom against autocracy. Was she also compelled to declare war against Germany as a means of protecting us from German despotism? But since when has Germany tried to force her despotism on us or given the slightest indication of such a desire? She is beating us in the race for industrial supremacy and that is the kind of despotism that hurts our ruling class, hence the German menace and the action of our ruling class and war lords in allying Britain with democratic Russia in crushing out German despotism.

When President Watters of the congress was in Sydney I heard him make a strenuous protest against Great Britain declaring war against Germany. Because of his outspoken utterances threats were made against him, and it required fine courage to stand out against the flood of strong feeling that menaced him. I heard him claim that our war lords, led by Sir Edward Grey, had tied the hands of Great Britain, and she was powerless to do otherwise than join forces with France and Russia, but an excuse must be found and an ideal placed before the people to win their approval, and the violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany was the excuse, and the destruction of German militarism and autocracy was the ideal. Yet the name of President Watters is attached to the report which is a flat contradiction of his attitude before and after Great Britain became involved in this present "quarrel of the ruling class."

Subsequent events and the appearance of the now famous "white paper" has proved that the attitude of President Watters to the war was correct. A careful perusal of the said "paper" reveals the fact that since 1906 the naval and military forces of Great Britain and France have been co-operating to meet the present "quarrel"; that each country knew that Germany must violate Belgian neutrality or remain cooped up while the triple entente leisurely proceeded to cripple and crush her; that the navy and military plans of Britain and France was laid on the basis of Germany reaching France through Belgium; that Germany knew of the plans of Britain, France and Russia; that Britain knew Germany's plans of campaign; that Germany promised to observe Belgian neutrality and independence if Great Britain would give assurance of remaining neutral; that Germany could afford to observe Belgian neutrality if Great Britain remained neutral by having the sea open to transport her troops to France as well as battering down the French forts near the German border; that Germany pledged, in the event of France being defeated and Britain remaining neutral, the integrity of France and her colonies; that Sir Edward Grey in the house of commons made it appear that Germany was trying to buy or bribe Britain's neutrality; that Germany asked Great Britain to formulate the terms on which she would remain neutral; that Sir Edward Grey refused to state the terms on which Great Britain could be saved from the horrors of war; that Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Asquith when asking for endorsation of declaring war on Germany deliberately misled the house by failing to state that Germany had requested Britain to state terms on which she would remain neutral and Sir Edward Grey's refusal to do so; that Great Britain's neutrality meant Belgium's neutrality; that had Great Britain promised not to become involved in the war she would have saved an invasion of Belgium, instead of which she said no, and made it next to impossible for Germany to do other than try to reach France through Belgium; that a dozen men called ambassadors and diplomats led Europe up to the brink of the chasm of war and that the war lords pushed it over; that international diplomacy as set forth in the "paper" is another name for sham and hypocrisy; that sham and hypocrisy is the breeding ground of distrust; that distrust characterised every move made by the hypocrites—pardon, ambassadors; that Sir Edward Grey said repeatedly Britain's hands were free to participate or otherwise in the war, yet he admitted her honor was pledged (her hands free, yet her honor pledged), think of that for hypocrisy; that a heavy burden of responsibility rests on Servia, Russia and France on the one hand, and Austria, Hungary and Germany on the other, for the human butchery now in progress; that Great Britain, through Sir Edward Grey, deliberately chose to participate in the quarrel, and the whole burden of responsibility rests on her shoulders for the inhuman butchery and suffering of our people at the front, and the desolate firesides at home; that Sir Edward Grey having failed to maintain the peace of Europe used every effort to embroil Great Britain in the war after it had broken out in order to keep faith with France in the understanding entered into; that the British cabinet had no knowledge of, or gave consent to, the "conversations" between Sir Edward Grey and the French and British naval and army experts covering a period of over six years, providing for joint operations of the armies and navies of the two countries; that the rankest deception has been practised on the peoples of the nations involved in the present conflict by the masters of hypocrisy known as diplomats, and the time is overdue for their unmasking by the working people seizing the reigns of government in their respective countries and guiding humanity away from the wilderness of revolting bloodshed, agony and bestializing surroundings into smiling fields of peace, comfort and happiness.

Sydney, N. S., Oct. 31, 1914. SYD.

Vancouver the One Back Number.

Observes the Winnipeg Voice: The Vancouver Trades and Labor council has decided to enter candidates in the forthcoming municipal elections, and has instructed its parliamentary committee to invite representatives from all the organizations in the city to come together and make arrangements for the campaign. This is a new move in Vancouver, for in the past sectionalism has been too rampant, which probably accounts for the fact that that is now the only city in the dominion which has not a single labor man in the municipal council.

"Let's dig coal because the people need coal and not because somebody wants to make a profit out of it. Let's produce food because the people need food and not because somebody wants a profit out of the production thereof. Let's collectively own the world and run it for the benefit of those who do the work."

A HORRIBLE RETRIBUTION

Fear Expressed that B. C. Promoters May Have to Go to Work

The Dominion Trust, one of the largest realty-dealing concerns on the coast and the National Finance, another of the same kind, have closed their doors and the examiners are looking into the sack which the public is left holding, says the Edmonton Daily Capital. These two concerns, in a sense, are typical of British Columbia and what has happened to it. There are approximately four hundred and fifty thousand people in B. C. Of these not less than three hundred thousand live in the towns and cities, where production is very limited and the main occupation of the populace has been exploiting the future. Timber limits, mines, real estate and farm lands in the raw state have been given an anticipatory valuation and the province has declared itself rich out of the profits shown by this anticipation of the development of the country's natural resources. But so busy were the people of B. C. promoting that they forgot to develop. Particularly was this true of the farming business. Farmers were very scarce, and notwithstanding that British Columbia has millions of acres of beautiful agricultural area, those who had an ambition to farm discovered that the land had been taken up long ahead of the railway and that the prices asked for wild land were such as to practically close the country against settlement and development. Now the war comes, and, with the changed conditions which call upon Western Canada for production, B. C. suddenly discovers that it has no production worthy of the name and has no training or business machinery for anything except promotion and exploitation. The thing that will happen in B. C. is that quite a lot of the promoters will have to go to work.

BIG UNION DEMONSTRATION

Monster Night Parade Planned for Opening of A. F. of L. Convention.

The local committee of unionists arranging for the A. F. of L. convention, to be held at Philadelphia next month, announce that a monster night parade, in honor of the event, will be held Friday, Nov. 13th. It is believed that 60,000 working men and women will be in line, as over 15,000 have already signified their intention to take part. Another feature of the convention will be a label exhibit which will cover more than 25,000 square feet of floor space in the large convention hall.

"Parm's" Successor.

"Kid" Pettipiece and Bill Bacon fought over a four rounds route in the 108-pound class, Bacon getting the decision by a shade. This was also an attractive bout, as both boys mixed things freely.—News-Advertiser, Nov. 4th.

About all most arguments are fit for is to promote unnecessary conversation.

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